

OBITUARY

Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.

C P PETCH

MD, FRCP

Dr C P Petch, formerly consultant physician at St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, died suddenly on 8 December.

Charles Plowright Petch was born on 2 September 1909. After preparatory schooling in Hunstanton he won a scholarship to Gresham's and from there a scholarship to St John's, Cambridge, where he obtained first class honours in the natural sciences tripos. After spending some years teaching at Stowe he went back to his former college in 1934 to read medicine, proceeding to clinical studies at St Thomas's Hospital. He graduated MB, BChir in 1939 and then served in the RAF during the war. After demobilisation and several posts he was appointed consultant physician to St Helier Hospital in 1948, which he served with distinction until his retirement in 1975, when he returned to live in his beloved Norfolk.

Charles was the first and for a time the only general physician to the newly built hospital. His whole time commitment, even after he had a part time contract, greatly contributed to the growth of the hospital, as did his excellent clinical skills. A man of natural reticence, he would never use three words where one would do, and this was reflected in his economical and lucid writing style. Committees, to which he was dragged only by his strong sense of duty, were always improved by his presence; those he chaired kept to the point, while at other meetings his departure indicated that they had continued after their useful time. Of regular habits (the arrival and departure of his cherished old Bentley were often more accurate markers of time than the clock in the hospital hall), he was unstinting in his work in wards and with outpatients. Even long after he retired he kept up to date; "Now, what does this mean, do you think?" he would ask, referring to some recent advance in your specialty days before you had read about it yourself.

Charles was a botanist of renown. After being for many years recorder for west Norfolk he served for three years on the council of the Botanical Society of the British Isles. Quite recently he was searching for a book dealing with some aspect of botany in Norfolk, only to be offered by the unsuspecting assistant that much better alternative, his own *Flora of Norfolk*.

While a house physician at St Thomas's Hospital Charles met and married Margaret Sterling, a nurse. He took particular pleasure in watching his elder son's progress in their shared specialty. He is survived by Margaret; his two sons, Mike and Hugh; and his three grandchildren.—GSS.

G H SCOULAR

OBE, MB, CHB, DPH

Dr G H Scouler, formerly area medical superintendent to the Ayrshire hospitals, died on 11 November.

Guy Hamilton Scouler was born in Kilmarnock on 27 July 1914. He was educated at Kilmarnock Academy and graduated in medicine from Glasgow University in 1938. At the outbreak of war he was

commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps and served in France and Belgium as regimental medical officer to the 2nd Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment, until Dunkirk. At that time he was mentioned in dispatches. His further service was mainly in India, where in 1945 he was assistant director of medical services at the headquarters of eastern command. After demobilisation he held several administrative posts before, in 1952, being appointed area medical superintendent to the Ayrshire hospitals, a position he held until the reorganisation of the service in 1974. He then gave up his full time job and became senior medical officer (planning) with the Western Regional Hospital Board until his retirement. In 1970 he was awarded the OBE for his contribution to the health service.

Guy was an excellent administrator. The planning of new hospitals always intrigued him and occupied a lot of his time. His efforts did not always reach fruition, but he was pleased to see the opening of Crosshouse Hospital and, more recently, the foundations being dug in preparation for the building of the new South Ayrshire General Hospital. He had a great love of classical music, especially that played on the church organ, and his fondness for foreign travel took him to many parts of the world. His beautiful garden in Alloway also brought him many hours of pleasure. He is survived by his wife, Doris, and by a son and daughter from a previous marriage.—JWND.

J O McDONAGH

MB, BS

Dr J O McDonagh, who was a general practitioner in Stanley, Perthshire, for many years, died on 9 September.

James Owen McDonagh, the son of a general practitioner in London, was educated in both Regina, Canada, and London before studying medicine at University College Hospital, London, where he graduated in 1933. After house appointments he joined a general practice in Stanley, Perthshire, first working there as a locum. It was there that he met and married his wife. During the war he captained the local platoon of the Home Guard, a position that he thoroughly enjoyed, as well as serving on several wartime medical committees.

With the start of the NHS Owen became a member of the Perth and Kinross executive council, first as vice chairman and then from 1949 as chairman; he was finance convener for many years. He was the council's representative on the Scottish Association of Executive Councils, serving as vice chairman in 1953 and as chairman the following year. He was also active in the BMA, being made a fellow of the association in 1959. In 1948 he became a member of Perth and Kinross Joint County Council, and over the next 21 years he was chairman of several committees. He was also a member of the former Perth District Council, chairman of the valuation committee, and a member of Perth's licensing court. He was a director of Perth Royal Infirmary and deputy superintendent of Murthly Hospital and was an appointed factory doctor. Having a keen interest in

education, he was a longstanding member of Perth district local education subcommittee and for some years a school governor.

In 1969 Owen was forced into retirement because of ill health. He continued to live in Stanley, occasionally taking on private patients and working with the Department of Health and Social Security to help disabled people. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and two daughters and by four grandchildren.—VMCD.

J R NAPIER

MRCS, LRCP, DSC

Professor J R Napier, anatomist and world authority on the primates, died at his home in Mull on 29 August. He was 70.

John Russell Napier was born at the Vicarage, Old Windsor, and educated at Canford and St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he qualified in 1943.

After working as a house surgeon to the orthopaedic unit at Hill End (St Bartholomew's) he was subsequently appointed senior house surgeon and chief assistant. He was instrumental in setting up the peripheral nerve injury unit at the request of the Medical Research Council. In 1946 he was appointed demonstrator in anatomy at the London School of Medicine for Women (now the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine). After a short spell as a lecturer at St Thomas's Hospital he returned to the Royal Free as reader in anatomy.

Napier's early work on peripheral nerve injuries had led to an interest in hand function and prehensility, and his analysis and classification of the human grip is universally accepted. Later, when Sir Wilfred Le Gros Clark was offered the remains of the forelimb of *Proconsul africanus* (a Miocene ape-like primate) by Louis Leakey for anatomical study he asked Napier to undertake the work. The result was a classic monograph that established his reputation as a primatologist of world class. Subsequent work on the Olduvai hand led to his inclusion as a coauthor, with Louis Leakey and Phillip Tobias, of the paper that established *Homo habilis* as a new species of fossil man, a step not without controversy but one that seems to have been vindicated by subsequent finds over the past 20 years.

As his career progressed with appointments at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, at Queen Elizabeth College, London, and finally at Birkbeck College his reputation as a primatologist and a communicator grew. It culminated in an outstanding series of televised Christmas lectures at the Royal Institution, which gave full rein to his talents as an academic who was also a member of the Magic Circle.

Professor Napier was an innovator who bubbled



with ideas and whose conversation was always a delight. He is survived by his wife, Prue, herself an accomplished primatologist and expert on primate taxonomy, and two sons.—MHD.

J P COLLINSON

TD, MRCS, LRCP

Dr J P Collinson, formerly a general practitioner in Teignmouth, Devon, died on 18 November aged 84.

John Pexton Collinson was born in Rotherham in 1903 and was educated at Ardingly and Repton School. He then followed the tradition set by his father and grandfather by studying medicine: he went to Sheffield University and gained the LMSSA in 1928. After resident posts at Weston-super-Mare and Mansfield he joined his father's practice in Rotherham, which had been founded by his grandfather in the 1870s. He was appointed honorary physician to Rotherham Hospital. Having joined the Territorial Army soon after the first world war, he was called up into the Royal Army Medical Corps as a captain at the outbreak of hostilities in 1939. Owing to ill health he remained in England, and he was demobilised in 1946, having been awarded the Territorial Decoration and first clasp. He then took a practice in Burgh Le Marsh, Lincolnshire, before moving to Teignmouth in the west country. He retired in 1961.

Dr Collinson took an active interest in cricket, becoming president of the local club and playing in the Lincolnshire Gentlemen team. He played a leading part in local art societies, exhibiting in Devon and at the Pastel Society in London. His pleasing personality and dry sense of humour endeared him to friends and patients alike. The last two years of his life were saddened by the death of his wife, Elaine. He is survived by his son, Edward, who continues in the family tradition of general practice in the Plymouth area.—EPC.

C M SEWARD

MD, FRCPED

Dr C M Seward, who for 35 years had been a physician to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, died on 27 November aged 89.

Charles Mackay Seward was born in Melbourne in 1898 and graduated MB, ChB in 1921 in Edinburgh. In 1928 he was appointed honorary assistant physician to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Over the next 10 years he led a happy domestic and busy professional life, at a time when requests for consultant opinion came regularly from all over Devon and general medicine in the provinces included paediatrics, neurology, and dermatology. He had a particular interest in gastroenterology and diabetes and showed an aptitude for handling psychosomatic disorders which was attributable not only to his reading in psychology but perhaps more to an innate patience and sympathy.

In 1942 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps to serve for three years in India as a lieutenant colonel and adviser in medicine to eastern command. The periods of boredom suffered by so many on active service he devoted

to drafting notes on his clinical experiences, and these formed the basis of his bestseller, *Bedside Diagnosis*, which was first published in 1949 and over the next 36 years ran to 12 editions. In it he classified the causes of a disease according to the symptoms and signs it produces rather than its aetiology and pathology, this being the manner in which it presents in practice.

On his return to civilian life Dr Seward, who was conservative by disposition, initially was suspicious of the new National Health Service, but after 1948 he set these aside to give all he had to the service, and to developing postgraduate training and the expansion of the medical library in Exeter.

Dr Seward retired in 1964 but then continued for some time with insurance work and service on medical appeal tribunals. He kept up lifelong interests in cigars, claret, and gardening and also in the classics. Only six months before his death, and escorted by a great granddaughter, he made a trip to the Aegean.

His wife died in 1950; he is survived by his three daughters and 10 other descendants.—AJD.

L K CORDEAUX

MRCS, LRCP

Dr L K Cordeaux, a singlehanded general practitioner in Scotter, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, died on 4 November aged 56.

Lawrence Kyme Cordeaux—known to his colleagues and friends as Larry—was born in London. He had extensive family connections in Lincolnshire, and his father was a Conservative member of parliament for central Nottingham in the 1950s. He qualified in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital in 1956 and after house appointments in London began his career in Horncastle. In 1961 he moved to Scotter, where he established himself as a singlehanded general practitioner. He threw himself wholeheartedly into everything going on around him. He took a great interest in the St John Ambulance, becoming divisional surgeon with the Gainsborough division and then the county surgeon, ultimately reaching the position of deputy county commissioner and county director. He also took a great interest in the parish and played a prominent part on various committees. At the time of his death he was chairman of Scotter Parish Council and represented the district ward of Scotter on West Lindsey District Council.

Larry had intimate knowledge of his patients, and his bedside manners could never be faulted. He was willing to put himself out, even at personal cost, to help his medical colleagues. He took an active part in medical politics, being a member of Lincolnshire Local Medical Committee among other committees.

Though he took such great interest in public life, he was, surprisingly, a private and reserved man. One of his pleasures was to play with his computer. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and two daughters.—AMG.

R M MATHERS

MB, CHB, DOMS

Dr R M Mathers, formerly consultant ophthalmologist to Dundee Royal Infirmary and latterly of Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee, died on 21 September aged 70.

Robert MacGregor Mathers—Robin—was the son of Dr Robert P Mathers, senior consultant ear, nose, and throat surgeon at Dundee Royal Infirmary. He was educated at Seaford House, Broughty Ferry, and Trinity College, Glenalmond, where he was captain of house. He graduated in medicine from St Andrews University in

1940, where as an undergraduate he was president of the Bute Medical Society, won his rugby blue, and was captain of the first fifteen. He started his career in ophthalmology as a house surgeon at Dundee Royal Infirmary, broadening his clinical experience by entering general practice for a period. Thereafter he served during the war as a surgeon lieutenant in the Royal Navy, serving aboard HMS *Devonshire* in the south Atlantic and Indian Ocean. He was subsequently appointed consultant ophthalmologist at Dundee Royal Infirmary. He was instrumental in the design and planning of the new eye department at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, University of Dundee, which was commissioned in June 1982.

A fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine and member of the Faculty of Ophthalmologists, the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and the Scottish Ophthalmic Club, he was also a past president of the Forfarshire Medical Association.

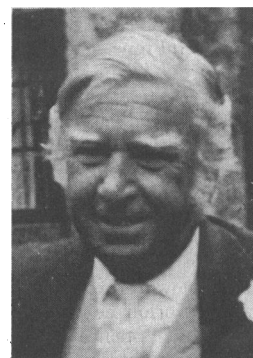
Robin Mathers had a warm, engaging personality and always had a friendly twinkle in his eye. His main interest was in golf, at which he excelled, and with his wide circle of friends he was always keen to encourage a novice to become enthralled by the insidious attraction of the game. He was a longstanding member of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, of Panmure Golf Club, Barry, and of Rosemount Golf Club, Blairgowrie. He is survived by his wife, Vivien, and daughter, Angela.—WMH.

J N HARRIS-JONES

MD, FRCP

Dr J N Harris-Jones, formerly consultant physician to the Swansea group of hospitals, died on 17 September aged 67.

John Norman Harris-Jones was born in south Wales in 1919 and studied medicine at St



Bartholomew's Hospital, qualifying MRCS, LRCP in 1943. After house jobs at Barts and the London Chest Hospital he became medical registrar and resident medical officer at Southend General Hospital. After service as a major (medical) in various military hospitals he was appointed

senior medical registrar to the united Sheffield hospitals before returning to his home territory as consultant physician to Llanelli Hospital.

John's skills as an excellent and dedicated physician soon meant that his reputation had spread throughout south Wales. After a serious illness in 1966 he continued his work in a way that was typical of him. Instead of reducing his workload he renewed a longstanding interest in endocrine disease and after being appointed to the Swansea hospitals attended a refresher course in endocrinology at Hammersmith. This fashioned his further career as a general physician with a particular interest in endocrine medicine. He built up a first class endocrine service in West Glamorgan and established a thyroid service that served the whole of west Wales. In the latter years he had a close liaison with the academic department at the University Hospital in Cardiff.

John was an entertaining companion with a fund of stories and a ready wit. He loved his work but had many other interests, including golf, rugby,

music, and bridge. He was a longstanding member of Bristol Channel Yacht Club. In his final illness he showed his characteristic courage and determination to live life to the full. He is survived by his wife; his son, who is a doctor; his daughter; and three grandchildren.—JEM, DD, JHJ.

E H PARKINSON

VRD, MB, CHB

Dr E H Parkinson, formerly a general practitioner in Wyke Regis, Weymouth, died on 7 October aged 82.

Ellis Hughes Parkinson graduated in medicine at Birmingham University in 1929 and then became house surgeon and casualty officer at the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton. He entered general practice as an assistant in Portsmouth and then in 1932 bought a practice of his own in Wyke Regis. Having been in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve from his student days, he was among the first to be called up when war broke out. For two years he was senior medical officer in the aircraft carrier HMS *Furious*, during which time he had several close shaves, including crashing into the sea when a Swordfish aircraft in which he was flying overshot the flightdeck. In 1942 he was posted to St Merryn Fleet Air Arm station near Padstow, where he stayed until 1944. He was demobilised in 1946 with the rank of surgeon lieutenant commander. He returned to Wyke Regis to find that his practice had all but disappeared, but he soon built it up again, and by the time he retired in 1965 it was a thriving three man partnership.

Dr Parkinson was active in medical politics, being secretary to the Dorset division of the BMA for 25 years and representing it at the annual conference on many occasions. He was also on the executive council for Dorset and was secretary to the local medical committee for five years.

Ellis was universally liked by his colleagues and his patients, for whom he was always ready to put himself out. Always keen on country pursuits, on his retirement he moved to Portesham, where he was quickly absorbed into village life and served as churchwarden for seven years and on many local committees. His wife, Marjorie, predeceased him in April; he is survived by two sons, Jeremy, who followed his father into general practice in Wyke Regis, and Nigel.—JCEP.

V O B GARTSIDE

VRD, MRCS, LRCP, DPH, DIH

Dr V O B Gartside, who was a general practitioner in Brighton, died in a road accident on 28 November.

Vivian Osmond Brook Gartside was born in 1917. Educated at Royds Hall, Huddersfield, and at Downing College, Cambridge, and Leeds, he qualified in medicine in 1941. After appointments in Leeds he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He served mainly in the Mediterranean, including on shore in Egypt and latterly in Greece at the time of the Communist rising: for his work there the King of Greece personally decorated him with the Medal of Military Merit. Many of his exploits were described in his book *Nile Additional*. After the war he moved to Oxfordshire as deputy county medical officer, but the routine duties did not appeal and he took up industrial work at the Royal Aero Establishment at Farnborough. Always inclined to independence, he later moved to a singlehanded practice in Brighton and at the same time held a part time appointment as school medical officer. Unfortunately, his later years were dogged by increasing ill health, which he bore with great patience supported by the care of his wife,

Jeanne, whom he had met when she was a nurse in Leeds.

Undoubtedly the war years influenced Dr Gartside's attitudes. As soon as possible he re-joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, ending his service as surgeon captain to the Sussex Division, having been awarded the Volunteer Reserve Decoration and bar and appointed honorary surgeon to the Queen. A quiet, considerate, helpful, and committed colleague, he is survived by his wife and their four children.—WSP.

G M KING

MRCS, LRCP, MRCPSYCH

Dr G M King, formerly physician superintendent of St Cadoc's Hospital, Caerleon, and consultant psychiatrist to the Royal Gwent and St Woolos Hospitals, Newport, Gwent, died on 12 October aged 88.

George Macmillan King was educated at Penarth College and in his youth became leader of one of the earliest troops of Sea Scouts. After service in the Royal Flying Corps as a pilot during the first world war he studied medicine at the Welsh National School of Medicine and King's College Hospital, London, qualifying in 1925. He spent the next years in junior appointments and in general practice in Yorkshire, where he also worked as a colliery medical officer. He was long associated with St Cadoc's Hospital, Caerleon, working as a medical officer there from 1930 to 1943 and as physician superintendent for 21 years from 1943 to 1964.

George developed many innovations of care in the small hospital, long before they became fashionable throughout the country as a whole. Occupational therapy started in 1932 and general hospital clinics in 1933. Day care started in the 1950s, by which time there was an extensive outpatient service, a domiciliary consultation service, and the beginnings of community psychiatry and general hospital psychiatry. His proudest innovation was setting up group homes for rehabilitating patients in the community.

George King was always ready to recognise the great impact of science on psychiatric practice; he was quick to perceive the importance of change and did all he could to facilitate it. He pioneered the development of electroconvulsive therapy and, later, the use of prefrontal leucotomy. St Cadoc's was one of the first psychiatric hospitals to have full electroencephalographic facilities, operating theatres, and a rehabilitation unit. In terms of his patients' welfare he developed an open door policy in the hospital and introduced facilities to increase patients' estimation of their own worth: beauty parlours and dressmaking and tailoring facilities were set up and a wide range of arts and crafts introduced.

An active member of the Royal Medico-Psychological Society and a foundation member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, George was a founding member of the Welsh Psychiatric Society in 1959. After his retirement from the NHS in 1964 he established a flourishing private practice and continued to see patients until his brief final illness. In 1936 he married Dorothy Thomas, who died in 1977. He is survived by his two daughters, Valerie and Pamela.—JH, DGT, FJI.



K WATSON

MD, FRCS(ED)

Dr K Watson, who had been a general practitioner and surgeon in Redhill for many years, died on 30 November aged 83.

Kenneth Watson was born in Tralee, County Kerry, and received his medical education at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating MB, BCh, BAO in 1926. After holding house appointments in Dublin, Edinburgh, and Liverpool he joined a practice in Redhill in 1929. Shortly afterwards he was appointed to the voluntary staff of East Surrey Hospital. His workload until his retirement in 1969 was one that few could have borne, but this in no way minimised his interest in the politics of general practice. For many years he was a representative of the local profession on the committees relating to national health insurance, and he was particularly active in those affairs relating to the introduction of the National Health Service.

His clear thinking made Dr Watson a much respected teacher, whether to housemen, nurses, or the St John Ambulance Brigade, of which he was a divisional medical officer and later corps surgeon and then corps superintendent. He demanded an extremely high standard from those he taught. A past chairman of the local branch of the BMA, he also took part in the affairs of the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society.

Dr Watson's hobbies included golf, sailing, and gardening. He was widowed in 1963 and subsequently married Mrs Maud Jackson, a member of the nursing staff of East Surrey Hospital. He is survived by his wife and by a son and a daughter of his first marriage.—GCS.

O F BROWN

MB, BS

Dr O F Brown, who was a general practitioner in Stony Stratford for 34 years, died on 25 October.

Oliver Forster Brown was born in Workington in 1926, the son of a general practitioner and a member of a large medical family. He was educated at Epsom College and graduated in medicine from St Thomas's Hospital in 1950. During his subsequent national service he became a squadron leader in the Royal Air Force, and he entered general practice in Stony Stratford in 1953. Greatly influenced by the work of Dr James Cyriax, he developed a specialist interest in manipulation and for many years was a clinical assistant in the department of rehabilitation. During the early years of his career he devoted much of his spare time to the local St John Ambulance Brigade; later he was active in local medicopolitics, serving for many years on the local medical committee. Much sought after as adviser, diplomat, and ambassador, he became the senior partner in 1976.

Dr Brown's abiding passions outside the practice were archaeology and local history. He was the editor of the Wolverton and District Archaeology Society for several years and became the society's chairman in 1979. He wrote three books: *Passenham—the History of a Forest Village*, written in collaboration with Sir Gordon Roberts; *The Tyrells of England*, and, recently, a small illustrated history of Stony Stratford. He is survived by his wife and four children.—DAE.

Lord Hunt of Fawley, a past president of the Royal College of General Practitioners, died on 28 December. An obituary will be published in a future issue.